

### HENRY CLINTON FALL

Henry Clinton Fall was born on Christmas Day, 1862, at Farmington, New Hampshire, and spent his boyhood at this place. He graduated (B.S.) from Dartmouth in 1884, and received from the same institution in 1929 the honorary degree of Doctor of Sciences. He went to California in 1889, taught at Pomona High School 1892-1896, and was head of the Science Department (housed in its own separate building) of the Pasadena High School from 1896 through 1917. After his retirement he returned East and made his home with his dearly loved sister and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Adams Richmond, at Tyngsboro, Massachusetts, until his death, November 14, 1939. He never married.

He was a corresponding member of the American Entomological Society, and a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and of the Entomological Society of America.

He began to collect beetles at the age of fourteen and soon after his arrival in California, in 1889, was busily engaged in collecting and in exchanging specimens with other collectors. At the same time he was studying his beetles diligently and naming those sent to him for identification by many other collectors, the writer one of them. He continued this great service up to the very end. A few years ago there came to him, as a resulting gift of appreciation, the immense collection of one of our best known collectors (still living), Charles Liebeck, of Philadelphia.

Fall offered no papers for publication, however, until he was thoroughly qualified, and he was almost thirty-five years old when his first descriptions were published in the October, 1897, issue of the "Canadian Entomologist" in a paper entitled "A List of the Coleoptera of the Southern California Islands with notes and descriptions of new species." His final paper, "The North American Species of *Nemadus*," appeared in 1937 in the *JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY*. The Leng "Catalogue of the Coleoptera of America, North of Mexico," and its four Supplements, list the titles of one hundred and thirty papers

published by Fall during this period of forty years. Fifteen of these appeared in the pages of this JOURNAL. Altogether Fall described 1,453 new species of North American Coleoptera and 37 new genera. This total, though exceeded only by Leconte, Horn, and Casey, is far less important than the manner in which these descriptions were prepared and presented after the most painstaking study of the literature, of the Leconte and Horn types, and of all available material. As a result very few of his species have ever been challenged: what little synonymy is recorded, is of his own discovery.

He did not confine his studies to any particular family but demonstrated his wide knowledge of the entire order of Coleoptera in giving monographic treatment to a great number of difficult groups, such as *Acmaeodera* (1899), *Agabus* (1922), *Agathidium* (1934), *Apion* (1898), *Bruchus* (1910), *Cœlambus* (1919), *Collops* (1912), *Diplotaxis* (1909), *Gyrinus* (1922), *Hydroporus* (1923), *Hymenorus* (1931), *Lathridiidae* (1899), *Malthodes* (1919), *Pachybrachys* (1915), *Podabrus* (1928), *Ptinidae* (1905), etc. Among his writings are three faunal lists of unusual value, "List of Coleoptera of Southern California" (1901), "Coleoptera of New Mexico" (with Cockerell, 1907), and a list of the species taken by him in Alaska in 1924, during his trip to that region with the Richmonds. All his papers relate exclusively to the fauna of North America; all are taxonomic.

Early in life he had the good fortune to make the acquaintance of Frederick Blanchard. Both of them were not only skillful and tireless collectors, but serious students as well, and they became the closest of friends. Soon after Blanchard's death (November 12, 1912) the Richmonds bought the Blanchard place at Tynngsboro, and Fall lived with them after he came back East in 1918. Their home continued to be, more and more, a shrine for students of Coleoptera to visit, as it had been during Blanchard's lifetime. It was indeed a delightful home to visit, hospitable, harmonious, inspiring. Seldom does one family, under one roof, have so much of interest to offer its guests. In this home there were three work rooms of varied sorts: one for Mr. Richmond, former patent attorney for the American Telephone and Telegraph Company; another for Mrs. Richmond, an accomplished genealogist; and the

third Dr. Fall's own "den" containing his library, his collection of both native and exotic beetles, and his other collections of butterflies, of postage stamps, and of post marks. The deepest attachment existed always between brother and sister, and he was blessed indeed to enjoy the loving devotion of this sister at all times and under all circumstances. The varied interests and hobbies of the three members of this household never precluded time and zest for other activities, and friendly discussions enjoyed by all in common. The Shermans were welcomed many times to this happy mecca on their way to and from Randolph, New Hampshire. Our last stop-over was in May, 1939, on our return from a week-end in the White Mountains. The hurricane of September, 1938, wrought great havoc at Tyngsboro, destroying nearly every tree on the Richmond acres, and the family were naturally still greatly depressed by this fact, but all were full of thankfulness that they themselves and their house had escaped injury. Fall was still as interested as ever in his beetles and much pleased to receive, while we were there, a letter from Dr. Reinhard announcing the sending of some of his newly described species of Texas Phyllophaga.

In 1916 or thereabouts, at my earnest request, Fall assumed the task of doing something about our much neglected Dytiscidæ. Chris. H. Roberts and I had been collecting them for a long time with great enthusiasm and success, but, at least in my own case, with very little actual study. Fall made various trips to Mount Vernon making extensive selections from my collection, and assembled countless other specimens from various sources. With all this material and his own collection before him, he studied at length our species of the family, in connection with the Leconte and other types, and many of Dr. Sharp's specimens loaned by the British Museum. Revisions of the genera *Cœlambus*, *Agabus* and *Hydroporus* and, later on, of *Ilybius*, resulted and about 100 new species of the family were thus made clearly known. At our various meetings during the course of these studies, besides the time spent by Fall in very deep application to his entomological problems, there were various pleasant relaxations and games, in which we could all participate, and in which Fall was always an enthusiastic and skillful contestant.

As was expected by his friends, and following Blanchard's example, Fall bequeathed his collection with all his types—the largest private collection of beetles in the United States—to the Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology at Cambridge, where he had spent so much time studying the Leconte types.

A letter from Charles W. Leng pays this tribute of appreciation to Dr. Fall's life work:—

“Upon the foundation laid by Leconte and Horn, he continued for forty years with rare conservative judgment the work of making known our beetle fauna. In the uniform excellence of his descriptions and tables he was the greatest of recent authors.”

JOHN D. SHERMAN, JR.